

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 139876

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, MX, OAS

SUBJECT: RABASA ON SAN JOSE MEETING

REF: MEXICO 5152

FOR AMBASSADOR AND LUERS FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. YOU WERE RIGHT TO ASSURE RABASA THAT WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR POSITION. WE ARE, OF COURSE, NOT TAKING STRONG PUBLIC INITIATIVES OR GETTING OUT IN FRONT ON THE QUESTION, BUT WE ARE MORE THAN READY TO HAVE THIS VEXING QUESTION REMOVED AT SAN JOSE FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN AGENDA. AS THE SECRETARY TOLD RABASA AND OTHERS, WE WILL SUPPORT A FREEDOM OF ACTION FORMULA, THOUGH WE WOULD NOT WANT THIS REPEATED PUBLICLY AT THE PRESENT TIME. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL NOW TO DRAW RABASA'S ATTENTION TO THE EXACT LANGUAGE OF MY STATEMENT TO THE BINGHAM HEARINGS:

2. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) BEGIN QUOTE: AS PART OF THE SECRET

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EFFORT TO SPEED THE PROCESS OF OAS REFORM AND MODERNIZATION, THE MAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGREED TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA FROM JULY 16-28 TO REFINE THE OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON

A PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE RIO TREATY, APPROVE AND OPEN THIS PROTOCOL FOR SIGNATURE. THE WORK IS FAR ADVANCED. WE EXPECT THE CONFERENCE WILL REACH AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF USEFUL REFORMS, INCLUDING THE CHANGE IN THE VOTING REQUIREMENT TO LIFT SANCTIONS FROM TWO-THIRDS TO A MAJORITY. AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED THE CHANGE IN THE VOTING REQUIREMENT. WE ARE CONFIDENT THIS CHANGE WILL BE IN THE PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT.

3. ONCE A PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT IS APPROVED, IT IS LIKELY THERE WILL BE AN EFFORT TO END THE MANDATORY OAS SANCTIONS. AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED AT HOUSTON, THE U.S. STANDS READY TO COOPERATE IN REACHING A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OAS ON HOW TO HANDLE THE ISSUE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT AMONG THE MEMBER STATES THAT A WAY SHOULD BE FOUND TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE, WHICH WILL BE IN THE REVISED TREATY, WITH RESPECT TO THE EXISTING MEASURES AGAINST CUBA AND WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE LENGTHY PROCESS OF RATIFICATION TO RUN ITS COURSE. IF THE MEMBERS CAN TRANSLATE THAT VIEW INTO A RESOLUTION, WE CAN ANTICIPATE ACTION AT THE MEETING AT SAN JOSE WHICH WILL FINALLY AND EFFECTIVELY TAKE CUBA OFF THE MULTILATERAL AGENDA AND LEAVE EACH NATION FREE TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHETHER OR NOT TO CONDUCT TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

4. A RELATED DEVELOPMENT AT LAST MONTH'S OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS SOME BEARING ON THE QUESTION OF CUBA SANCTIONS. MEXICO SPONSORED A DECLARATION -- BEST DESCRIBED AS SOMETHING AKIN TO A SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION -- WHICH STATED THAT THE MEMBERS, ONCE A PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT OF THE RIO TREATY HAD BEEN APPROVED, WOULD PROCEED TO LEAVE THE SANCTIONS WITHOUT EFFECT. THE RESOLUTION HAS NO LEGAL EFFECT. IT PASSED, BUT
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WITHOUT THE VOTE OF ENOUGH PARTIES TO MAKE A SIMILAR MOVE EFFECTIVE UNDER THE RIO TREATY. WE ABSTAINED, ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ON THE SOUND JURIDICAL GROUNDS THAT THIS PARTICULAR RESOLUTION WAS IMPROPER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SINCE IT DID NOT ACCORD WITH THE PROCEDURES OF THE RIO TREATY. IN ABSTAINING, WE MAKE CLEAR OUR DESIRE TO REACH A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. THE INDICISIVE RESULT ON THE MEXICAN RESOLUTION ILLUSTRATES THE DIVIDED VIEWS AMONG THE OAS MEMBERS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING CAREFULLY WITHIN THE OAS TO CONSTRUCT A SOLID CONSENSUS AT SAN JOSE.
END QUOTE. (END UNCLASSIFIED) KISSINGER

SECRET

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